

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Park and Recreation Conference Room  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Monday, June 8, 2009  
3:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, Matt Goolsby, John Stevens, Andy Solter

**Absent:** Glen Dey

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Kerin Smith, citizen.

Interim President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Solter, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board meeting minutes of May 11, 2009.**

**Item 2A: Name Southwest Corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Meadowlark Park**

Jeff Spahn, 3601 East Mt. Vernon, Wichita, representing The Meadowlark Association of Neighbors, Inc., presented the Association's request to name the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Meadowlark Park. The Association was organized in 1995 by 650 homeowners in the neighborhood. The meadowlark name originated from local historic attractions; Meadowlark Country Club, Meadowlark Drive In, and Meadowlark Amusement Park.

Through Federal Funding and the assistance of Storm Water Flood Control, the site is currently comprised of walking paths, benches and open space with proper drainage into Dry Creek. Association members have been maintaining the area by mowing and trash/debris clean-up.

The Meadowlark Association of Neighbors, Inc. petitions the Park Board to name the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff the Meadowlark Park, for the site to become part of the Park Department and for the installation of signage identifying the area as a park.

Stevens gave support for the name and giving the area park status. He noted the area looks very nice and that he had watched development of the area. Stevens inquired what other features could be installed on the property. Spahn suggested a small playground could be installed to provide children a place to play. Kupper interjected that fencing may be necessary with a playground due to the streets

traffic volume. Stevens thought the parking was adequate for a park. Solter asked about the cost of providing signage. Kupper said it would be minimal as it would be created in house. Solter advised he had spoken with Council Member Skelton, who supported the request. Solter requested that the Park Department investigate the cost of installing playground equipment along with fencing.

**On a motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE to name the Southwest Corner of Mt. Vernon and Bluff, Meadowlark Park and for the Department of Park and Recreation to investigate the cost of Playground Equipment and fencing for installation at this site.**

#### **Item 2B: Riverbank Stabilization Proposal**

Hoyt Hillman, 3601 East Mt. Vernon, Wichita, member of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, gave a powerpoint presentation to the Park Board regarding a proposal for Riverbank Stabilization. The initiative's intent is to replant native grasses and shrubs to the riverbank in an effort to stop erosion, filter flood waters, reduce Canada Geese on the riverbank, and reduce mowing and maintenance.

Considering public view of the river, Solter asked how high the plantings would be. Hillman stated the majority of proposed plant material, through Kansas State University, has a mature height of 12" to 36". Most grasses are from 12" to 18". Taking into account the slope of the existing riverbank, the plantings would not inhibit viewing of the river.

Kupper stated that the Park Department is supportive of the plan, and that the plantings are needed to preserve the riverbank, stop erosion, and reduce mowing costs to the city. However, citizen education would be vital before initiating the project. Citizens have historically wanted the riverbank mowed to the water's edge. The proposal identifies all possible riverbank areas within Wichita, narrowing the focus with site choice would help the project move forward. Educational signs would need to be installed before the project started in order for the public to understand the purpose and intent of changes to the riverbank.

Solter thought the project would need continuous oversight and periodic updates to the Board. Stevens inquired to the estimated cost of initiating the project. Kupper thought it would be in the thousands; however, it would save more once completed. It may be possible to access Stimulus Funds for the project through EPA funding to Establish Rain Gardens, Runoff Protection and Creek Bed Restoration.

Possible locations along the riverbank are:

- Drainage Grotto near the Keeper of the Plains
- Both Ends of Exploration Place – May be able to access Westar Green Team with this area
- Areas in Central Riverside Park, Oak Park, and Sim Park
- South of Central
- Kellogg to Lincoln
- Lincoln to Harry
- East Bank at Wichita North High School, 13<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> Street

**On a motion by Solter, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE test areas at the Drainage Grotto near Keeper of the Plains and Westar, identify areas in Central Riverside Park, Oak Park, and Sim Park. Detailed plans will be brought back to the Park Board for further review and approval.**

Kupper stated Hillman will need to present his ideas at the Workshop Agenda for City Council.

Solter requested Hillman return for periodic updates after presentation and acceptance by the City Council.

Goolsby suggested the reclamation signs you see in Colorado could be a guide to the ones installed at project sites.

### **Item 3A: Naming of Chapin Landfill**

At the April 18, 2009 meeting, the Park Board deferred this item for a future meeting.

Frye asked Solter if he had visited with Council member Skelton for naming suggestions. Solter stated that names had not been discussed. Solter asked if the decision could be delayed for another two (2) months. Stevens asked if the District Advisory Board had discussed it yet. Solter said it had not.

**On a motion by Solter, second by Roth, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE further study for naming of the park.**

### **Item 4: Review of Pending Issues**

None.

### **Item 5: Updates from the Director and Acting President**

Kupper reported that the CIP is moving slowly, as is the Budget Process.

Summer of Discovery has solid enrollment numbers, as does PACK. Edgemoor and Orchard Recreation Center's are near maximum participation.

Frye asked about the Golf Course Fee Recommendations. Kupper stated the committee has decided to review citizen comments before making the final recommendation.

The Vietnamese Community Memorial in Veteran's Park is on the City Council Agenda for June 8, 2009.

### **Item 6: Issues on the Horizon**

Goolsby asked Dickgrafe for clarification of open meeting rules. Dickgrafe provided additional information to the Park Board.

Fall Retreat dates were briefly discussed with no decision.

Goolsby nominated Brian Jackson for the Wichita Play Commission. Goolsby will provide his contact information.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:55 p.m.

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Bryan Frye, Interim President

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Lee Ann Sack, Clerk